



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

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Released: January 15, 2010

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Idaho Potato Stocks Up 15 percent from Last Year

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on January 1 totaled 87.0 million cwt, 11.5 million cwt more than on hand January 1, 2009. Disappearance, at 44.0 million cwt is up from last year's 41.0 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 3.90 million cwt, up from last year's 3.70 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 83.1 million cwt, were up from the 71.8 million cwt stored on January 1, 2009. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 6.07 million cwt of 2009 crop raw potatoes during December, down 8.0 percent from December 2008. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon have used 29.2 million cwt of 2009 crop raw potatoes to January 1, up 0.7 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 24.2 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 5.01 million cwt were produced in other states.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 235 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2010, up 10 percent from a year ago and 1 percent above January 1, 2008. Potatoes in storage accounted for 61 percent of the 2009 fall storage States' production, unchanged from January 1, 2009. Potato disappearance, at 149 million cwt, was 5 percent below January 1, 2009 and down 10 percent from 2008. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 16.5 million cwt, was up 11 percent from the same date in 2009 and 1 percent above 2008. Processors in the 9 major States have used 75.7 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 10 percent from the same period last year and down 16 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 14.1 million cwt of the total processing, down 3 percent from last year and 16 percent below the same period in 2008.

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